



## John L. Kraft

January 21, 2018

John L. Kraft, 83, died unexpectedly on Sunday, January 21, 2018 surrounded by family at Lancaster General Hospital. Born in Lancaster, PA, Jack was the son of the late John H. and Emma Landis Kraft. He was preceded in death by his first wife Mary Grace Kraft and is survived by Jean Miller Weaver whom he married in 2010.

Jack graduated from Elizabethtown College in 1957 and received his Master's degree from Temple University in 1964. He worked for the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission where he was the Director of Ephrata Cloister and Landis Valley Museum retiring in 1991. After retirement, he was the Church Administrator for Westminster Presbyterian Church until 1999.

Jack was an elder and founding member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, a member of the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County, former president and board member of the Wheatland Foundation, a member of Lancaster County Historical Society and Mennonite Historical Society, former board member of Old Zion Church in Brickerville, former board member of Heritage Center and Lancaster County Cultural Museum.

His vocation of history was also his passion. Jack's inquisitive and open mind was a storehouse of knowledge in not only history, but also architecture, antique furniture, Lancaster County and family genealogy. He valued

corporate worship and the community of the church. His friends and family will miss the dialogue and wisdom he shared in working out his own faith in Christ. In addition to his wife, Jack is survived by two daughters: Susan L. Hockerman (Guy H.) of Kirkwood, MO and Ann B. Tweed (Sean K.) of Lititz, PA; two stepsons: Brent A. Weaver (Jeffrey G. Clouser) of Mount Joy, PA, and Kirke D. Weaver (Amybeth M.) of Audubon, PA; three grandchildren: Mara F. Hockerman, Lucia L. Hockerman and Emma G. Tweed; and three step grandchildren: Cecilia R. Weaver, Everett R. Weaver and Addison J. Clouser.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to Jack's Funeral Service at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2151 Oregon Pike, Lancaster, PA on Saturday, January 27, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. The family will receive friends from 12:30 p.m. until the time of service. Private family interment will follow at the Westminster Presbyterian Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2151 Oregon Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601 or the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County, 123 N. Prince Street, Lancaster, PA 17603.

# Cemetery Details

## Westminster Presbyterian Cemetery

Lancaster, PA

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 27. 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
2151 Oregon Pike  
Lancaster, PA 17601

## Service

JAN 27. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
2151 Oregon Pike  
Lancaster, PA 17601

# Tribute Wall



“ *John L. Kraft*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *Belated sympathy to all the family. Cousin Jack was always a fascinating conversationalist about all matters of local history. And he was a generous and helpful advisor, when my late Mother moved from her home into assisted living in Lititz, advising about her antique (Frantz and Landis) furniture and acquiring an item for himself. I would delight on seeing him during my occasional visits to Pennsylvania. -- Bill Pezick in California*

**Bill Pezick** - June 22, 2020 at 08:29 PM



“ *We always enjoyed discussing church life and history with Jack and will remember him as a sincere family man and distinguished historian. Nancy and Allan Kramer-Moyer*

**Allan Kramer-Moyer** - January 27, 2018 at 04:31 AM



“ *Sapphire Skies Bouquet was purchased for the family of John L. Kraft.*



January 25, 2018 at 11:45 AM

CS

“ First I wish to extend my sympathies to Susan and Ann and their families, I remember when they were born. I also want to extend my deepest sympathies to Jean and her family. In 1966 Jack hired me right out of high school as a tour guide at the Ephrata Cloister. I had the distinct privilege of working for him for almost twenty years, one could not have asked for a better boss. A true historian, his knowledge, not only of the history of the Cloister, but of fine antiques, architecture, genealogy, etc. was unexceptionable. I remember several occasions when we worked together that he asked me to accompany him to the Pennsylvania Historical Society, the Library Company, the English Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society (then located in Plainfield, N.J.), where we sat and carefully examined documents, imprints, and the manuscript music books of the Cloister. They were true learning experiences for this kid fresh out of high school. On another occasion Mary Grace was not feeling well, I think they were expecting at the time, he asked me to accompany him to a concert of the Philadelphia Philharmonic Orchestra at the Academy of Music in Philadelphia, my first such experience. Jack was more than a boss, he was a mentor, I will treasure the years we worked together, my life was enriched having known him. My wife Marcia and I extended our deepest sympathy to all. Clarence E. Spohn

---

**Clarence E. Spohn** - January 25, 2018 at 10:59 AM

JR

“ I first met Jack when I started to work for the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission at Cornwall Iron Furnace. Jack showed me "the ropes" and was always available to answer questions and give advice. Eventually we both worked in Harrisburg, and it was always a pleasure to run into him during the work day. He was always a gentleman and scholar. I still slow down when passing his former house in Ephrata. My sympathy to all of his family and friends.

John Robinson  
Harrisburg

---

**John K Robinson** - January 25, 2018 at 12:29 AM

NS

I share Clarence Spohn's and John Robinson's comments and memories of Jack. I had both the good fortune and challenge of succeeding him as director of the most remarkable example of William Penn's "Holy Experiment" ....the Ephrata Cloister. His shoes were almost impossible to fill but he assured me that I was capable of that task and was also happy that I took up the baton to continue on the path he started at Ephrata. Jack was indeed a gentleman and a scholar; he fully supported and mentored me during my 12 years as advocate and protector of the Cloister legacy. I considered him my partner in preserving the Cloister heritage long after his retirement. Jack was a gentleman and a gentle man who understood the importance of "community" in its every aspect.....from faith to charity and complete selflessness. Fare thee well my friend and colleague.  
Nadine Steinmetz  
Lititz, PA

---

**Nadine Steinmetz** - January 25, 2018 at 06:02 PM

MI

*As editor of PENNSYLVANIA HERITAGE, published by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, I often called on Jack for his help and assistance in confirming both the factual accuracy and the proper interpretation of feature articles. No matter how busy Jack was, he always made time to ensure that the material was worthy of publication. He was bright, intuitive, as well as gracious and charming. I enjoyed his company immensely and felt the Museum Commission lost a bonafide scholar and true gentleman when he retired. Jack was a shining star and from him I learned so much.*

*Michael J. O'Malley III  
Harrisburg and  
Hometown, Pa.*

---

**Michael J. O'Malley III** - January 28, 2018 at 01:38 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John L. Kraft.*



---

January 24, 2018 at 10:07 PM



“ *I have fond memories of Jack's Sunday School class at Memorial Presbyterian Church in the late '60s where while a student at Millersville University my faith was strengthened. And down the years and even within the last few years it's been my pleasure to renew our acquaintance at concerts, services at Westminster and even a tour or two of Philadelphia. Thinking, intentional godly men like Jack who revel in the Art and music of the West are nearly nonexistent. May Jack's family know the presence, strength and peace of Christ.*

*Larry Everhart*

---

**Larry Everhart** - January 24, 2018 at 09:49 PM

JE

*There are many connection between our families. In addition to the remarks of our oldest brother above, our brother Dave had the honor of helping Jean's first husband during his illness, and I would be richly blessed in being adopted by Jack, and his young family during my years at MU through a college outreach while I attended Westminster. My parents would later join he and Mary Grace in their Bible study groups and also cherish their friendship. My love for reverent, god-centered worship was nurtured by this wise and intelligent gentleman. He would continue to be both an inspiration and a great friend and I shall miss him. In my sadness, I take delight in knowing that Jack now gets to worship with the masters, and in the very glories of his Gracious Savior. May his dear family know the rich comfort of God. This wonderful friend walked many cobble-stoned roads in Old City with me and I look forward to someday joining him on streets of gold.*

---

**john everhart** - January 28, 2018 at 05:33 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of John L. Kraft.*



---

January 24, 2018 at 11:40 AM

HE

“ Jack was a very special friend/cousin who was gifted in so many areas of history. He shared so much knowledge of genealogy and architectural styles around Lancaster County which we felt so blessed to be a part of, that words cannot express what a GREAT loss his passing is to us. He introduced us to a wonderful person his lovely wife Jean who also shared his many historical interests. To Our dear Jean and all the family we convey our deepest sympathy. May the wonderful memories you have carry you through this most difficult time. Jack was a GREAT and Wonderful Gentlemen, who will be missed by so many of us his friends. Although God called Jack home, he will forever remain in our hearts. We know that Jack is in a wonderful place now, walking with our Lord and Savior! Gone but Never Forgotten! Love and Hugs,  
Howie & Bonnie Eckhart



---

Howard S. & Bonnie L. Eckhart - January 24, 2018 at 04:07 AM